

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GE, CSCE, GW, UR, WB

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON BERLIN AFTER CSCE

1. SUMMARY. FEB 10 PRAVDA CARRIES SIGNED REPORT FROM CORRESPONDENT A. GUBANOV ON SCHUETZ STATEMENT TO WESTERN JOURNALISTS CONCERNING EFFECT OF CSCE ON BERLIN WHICH STRIKES US AS HARSH IN TONE BUT SOMEWHAT CONCILIATORY IN SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO GUBANOV, SCHUETZ GAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS VIEW THAT CSCE HAS BROUGHT NO ADVANTAGES FOR WEST BERLIN BECAUSE THE FACTS ARE EXACTLY TO THE CONTRARY. 2,740,000 WEST BERLINERS VISITED THE GDR, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS WENT TO OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN 1975, AND ESPECIALLY ITS SECOND HALF; AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE TRANSIT AND POSTAL LINKS WERE SIGNED AFTER HELSINKI BY "THE GDR AND FRG GOVERNMENTS AND THE WEST BERLIN SENAT"; NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER PROBLEMS ARE GOING ON; AND TRADE,
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SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL LINK BETWEEN WEST BERLIN

AND THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPING "NORMALLY."

3. GUBANOV ALSO WRITES THAT SCHUETZ PRODUCED NO FACTS TO SUPPORT HIS CLAIM THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND GDR ARE TRYING TO SEVER THE CITY'S LINKS WITH THE FRG, BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT. "THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DGR ARE NOT AGAINST NORMAL WEST BERLIN LINKS WITH THE FRG AND OTHER CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, THEY MERELY OPPOSE BRUTAL ENCROACHMENTS BY CERTAIN FRG CIRCLES ON WEST BERLIN, THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONSIDER THE CITY AS A PART OF ITS TERRITORY."

4. FINALLY, GUBANOV UPBRAIDS SCHUETZ FOR NOT HAVING TOLD HIS INTERLOCUTORS WHAT THE WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE OR PLAN TO DO SOON TO IMPLEMENT CSCE DECISION.

5. COMMENT. GUBANOV OBVIOUSLY SEES DEVELOPING TIES WITH THE WEST AS THE PRIMARY CSCE ADVANTAGE FOR WEST BERLIN, BUT IS CAREFUL TO BLESS "NORNAL" LINKS WITH THE WEST AS WELL. THE TONE IS HARSH, AND NOTHING IN THE ARTICLE CARRIES PRAVDA BEYOND ESTABLISHED SOVIET POSITIONS, BUT IT IS CAREFULLY BALANCED, A SORT OF MAILED OLOVE BRANCH IN A SMALL FORMAT. STOESSEL

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